

this contamination is included in this?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I do not understand this question. The object is to provide sustainable safe drinking water. If water mixed with fluoride....

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Helping assistance and loans for purification of water. Drinking water in many areas is contaminated with fluoride. Whether the scheme to free water from this impurity is also included in it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I am not competent to answer about water supply in UP. That is a question which must be put in the UP Assembly.

I am talking about a World Bank assisted project in which the objective is to supply safe drinking water and I am sure the project has taken into account the fact that there is fluoride content and how to remove the fluoride. I have no doubt that the technical and implementing agencies will look into this aspect. It is the U.P. Government which is the agency.

DR. ASIM BALA : Sir, this is a good project. What I want to know is, whether any monitoring unit has been set up in other States and what is the criteria for this World Bank Water Supply project. Is there any pre-condition for taking up this project?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : As I understand, the question is how the other States could get the benefit.

The other States should make a proposal to the Government of India and request us to pose it for world Bank funding. If other States want to study these projects, we're quite willing to ask them to send their teams to Maharashtra, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh. After that, if the State which you represent wishes us to pose the project for World Bank funding we would be quite happy to study it and pass it on.

DR. ASIM BALA : Is there any pre-condition?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : There are no pre-conditions. You only have to make a proposal that you need these projects.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Sir, through you, I want to know from the hon. Minister the number of proposals received by the Central Govt. from the Govt.

of M.P. under World Bank Loan Scheme and the number of Schemes out of them already approved?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : As I said, this kind of village demand-driven water supply projects are only four in number two are under implementation in Maharashtra and Karnataka. For UP, it has been cleared and for Punjab, it is under preparation. My information is that so far there is no proposal from the State of Madhya Pradesh.

[Translation]

Export of Fruits, Vegetables & Flowers

*403. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of fruits, vegetables and floriculture items produced, exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years separately, country-wise ;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the producers and exporters of these items are facing a lot of difficulties and have stopped the production of these items ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard and to boost the export of these items? .

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The details of domestic production of fruits, vegetables and floriculture items during the year 1993-94 are as under :

1993-94 (Qty. Metric Tonnes)		
(1)	Fruits	39,478,593
(2)	Vegetables	65,09,4918
(3)	Floriculture Products	N.A.

Production data for the year 1994-95 and 1995-96 are not available.

The total quantity of fruits, vegetables and floriculture items exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years i.e. 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as follows :

	Quantity in Metric Tonnes		Value in Rs. Crores	
			(April '95 to Feb '96)	
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	
	Qty. Value	Qty. Value	Qty. Value	
(1) Fruits	77813111.93	88254123.88	87794116.78	
(2) Vegetables	401615250.01	400665327.12	429294394.45	
(3) Floriculture Products	N.A.*	11.91N.A.*	22.57N.A.*	39.45

*The details of quantity of floriculture products exported are not available as the floriculture products are also exported by numbers.

Country-wise details of the exports are available in the Annual Number of the Statistics of Foreign Trade of India published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Calcutta.

(b) and (c) Government is not aware of producers having stopped production of fruits, vegetables and floriculture items on account of difficulties faced in exports of these items. Inadequate post-harvest handling facilities and suitable infrastructure for transportation and storage of perishable products has been identified as one of the main constraints in developing and promoting exports of perishable products.

(d) Some steps taken to enhance the production and export of perishable agriculture products including fruits, vegetables and floriculture items are :

For Production

- (i) Establishment of nurseries for supply of quality planting materials;
- (ii) Establishment of tissue culture units;
- (iii) Area expansion under fruits;
- (iv) Establishment of demonstration plots;
- (v) Production and supply of hybrid seeds;
- (vi) Conducting training of farmers; and
- (vii) Soft loans given for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platform, ripening/

curing chambers and quality testing equipment.

For Exports

- (i) Providing financial assistance for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre-cooling/cold storage facilities;
- (ii) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control;
- (iii) Establishment of walk-in-type cold storage for export consignments awaiting clearance;
- (iv) Setting up of air cargo facilities for cargo booking and customs clearance facilities under one roof;
- (v) Setting up of dedicated cargo handling facilities for perishable products at Air Ports;
- (vi) Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for improved acceptability of the product ;
- (vii) Implementation of UNDP Project on Floriculture for enhancing productivity and exports of floriculture products particularly cut flowers;
- (viii) Air Freight Subsidy for selected floricultural, horticultural and fresh vegetables;
- (ix) Arranging buyer-seller meets and participation in International Trade Fairs/Exhibitions.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : The Hon. Minister in his reply has indicated the steps taken to enhance the production and export of fruits and vegetables. May I know from the hon. Minister the names of the states where these steps are going to be implemented? According to this reply a number of centres are proposed to be opened. Financial assistance is proposed to be given to the farmers. The names of states where these are proposed to be implemented?

Sir, the hon. Minister at S. No. 7 under steps to enhance exports has stated that UNDP project would be implemented. May I know from the hon. Minister the names of the states where the project is proposed to be implemented and steps proposed to cover loopholes encountered in this UNDP project?

[English]

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have given a lot of assistance for the export of vegetables, flower and fruits. The exports have been continuously improving year after year. On the question of support from the Ministry of Commerce, this is one item

on which we are giving export subsidy for transport. This is increased year after year but we would like to do it on a long term basis in the Ninth Five Year Plan. Earlier, there was some gap from one year to another and so the assistance was not up to the mark.

As the hon. Member has suggested, there are UNDP schemes applicable to all the States for establishment of international auction centres for flowers where there are no auction centres. We are going to implement all these schemes in all the States. In fact, we are also giving financial assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture. For integrated development of small nurseries, it is Rs. 29,000 in each case or 50 per cent, whichever is less; for tissue culture units, it would be Rs. 10 lakh each or 20 per cent, whichever is less. Thus, a lot of support is given for export of fruits and vegetables.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : The steps detailed by the hon. Minister to encourage producers and farmers are commendable. May I know from the hon. Minister through you that in view of the proposed steps to enhance production and export and assistance proposed to be given. Whether there is any agency to monitor. Whether farmers and producers are getting the benefit or not? Or whether you have appointed any officer or authority to see that the facility provided by you to the farmers are benefitting them and encouraged by the same the farmers enhance their production and exports? What arrangements have been made in this regard?

[English]

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the various types of assistance that we are giving are given to the Agricultural Departments of the State Governments.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I am asking about the monitoring.

[English]

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : The monitoring is done only through the Agricultural Department of the each State Government. We only take information from them and operate through the state Governments as they are the implementing authorities. As said, we give assistance only for the transport purposes because we directly deal with international transport—ship freight, air freight etc.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, three aspects are to be kept in mind. (i) production (ii) export and (iii) assistance through cooperatives or financing agencies. Our country is well suited for production. You take the example of Israel. There, a lot of drip irrigation facilities have been given to the farming community or the horticulture community. As you are well aware, they are the leaders in drip irrigation in the whole of the world. I think you know all these details and our country is very well suited for drip irrigation. The drip irrigation is the best form of irrigation whether it is for growing food crops or vegetable growing or for floriculture. Therefore, I would like to know whether you are going to give more drip irrigation facilities for the farming community.

Secondly, you said that you have accorded a helping hand for the transport sector. Apart from this, cold storage facilities have to be kept in mind because vegetables, fruits and flowers are perishable items. The World Bank has come forward to extend this helping hand. There are so many other financing agencies also. Why do you not have a master plan for the whole country to give cold storage facilities for the horticulture community throughout the country?

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has mentioned about the drip irrigation system. This is already covered by the Agricultural Ministry. In fact the Government of India is substantially assisting the drip irrigation scheme which is a wonderful scheme. Regarding drip irrigation system, I am in absolute agreement with what the hon. Member has said. We are giving subsidy in the international transport sector, like air freight, shipping freight etc. We are doing that keeping exports in mind.

Regarding cold storage facilities, we have a number of arrangements for cold storage at different places. We have provided refrigeration and cold storage facilities for exporters at nominal cost. ... (Interruptions)

12.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please allow him to reply.

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : I am prepared to say that for floriculture, APEDA has already made arrangements at a number of places, like Delhi, Pune, Bangalore and Madras. At other places also, as the situation improves, we will also provide more facilities. We are substantially giving support for export of floriculture, fruits and also vegetables.